

**MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH
PUBLIC HEALTH ADMINISTRATION
AUGUST 2005**

**STATEMENT ON ADOPTION OF RAPID HIV TESTING TECHNOLOGIES IN
MICHIGAN**

The Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH), through its Division of Health, Wellness and Disease Control (DHWDC) completed an evaluation of the initial phase of implementation of rapid testing. The results of this evaluation indicate that introduction of rapid HIV testing in existing HIV counseling and testing sites operated by local health agencies and community based organizations has not resulted in a significant increase in the number of tests conducted among individuals at increased risk for HIV. Rapid HIV testing was introduced simultaneous to modifications to program targeting associated with a 2003 request for proposals; therefore any observed increases in the number of newly-identified HIV-infected persons cannot be directly attributed to introduction of rapid HIV testing. Finally, a comparative cost analysis indicates that rapid HIV testing is more costly than HIV testing conducted using either OraSure or traditional venipuncture. For these reasons, the Department does not plan to expand use of rapid HIV test technologies in community-based organizations or local public health agencies beyond those currently approved by DHWDC/MDCH to use such technology.

The Michigan Department of Community Health supports the adoption of rapid testing technologies in a manner consistent with recommendations made by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and as stated in the Department's Position Statement on Rapid Testing for HIV (September 2001). In brief, the Department recommends use of rapid HIV testing in settings or situations:

- (1) Where return rates for HIV test results fall below acceptable thresholds and which have relatively high HIV seroprevalence (1% or greater) and/or which serve clients at increased risk for HIV.
- (2) Where expedited medical treatment is indicated, such as in the case of occupational exposure, labor and delivery settings or in emergency rooms settings where HIV infection status is not known or documented.

Community-based organizations and local public health agencies who wish to adopt rapid HIV test technologies may do so provided that they do not use MDCH Public Health Administration (PHA) resources to support, in any way, adoption of rapid HIV testing. This includes purchase of test devices, controls, laboratory services outside the MDCH system, testing supplies and materials, personnel, insurance and other related costs. Use of MDCH-PHA resources for provision of rapid HIV testing by agencies other than those currently under contract to provide HIV counseling, testing and referral (CTR) using rapid technologies will serve as cause to terminate the contractual arrangement for provision of HIV CTR services.

Community-based organizations and local public health agencies under contract with the Department for provision of HIV CTR who elect to adopt rapid HIV testing using other sources of funding are expected to comply with all state and federal laws, regulations and requirements associated with use of rapid HIV test technologies including obtaining appropriate certification under the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Act; implementing a comprehensive quality assurance program; implementing quality control and regular competency evaluation and ensuring training and appropriate supervisory support for staff engaged in HIV testing and other requirements as specified by the manufacturer.

The Department will provide limited technical support and consultation to agencies that plan to adopt rapid HIV testing. Agencies may participate in training and certification courses sponsored by the Bureau of Laboratories and/or the Division of Health, Wellness and Disease Control, as space permits. Priority for these courses will be given to agencies under contract with DHWDC to provide HIV testing using rapid technologies. Agencies that adopt rapid HIV testing that are not under contract with the Department for provision of HIV testing using rapid test technologies may send specimens to the state laboratory for confirmatory testing provided that the agency complies with laboratory protocol for submission of specimens and agrees to report discordant and invalid test results, pursuant to protocol and procedures established by the Department.

For further information or questions, contact the Division of Health, Wellness and Disease Control at (517) 241-5900.